

Annual Wade-In and issuing of Nanticoke River Report Card 'grades' set for Thursday, July 28 at Trap Pond State Park

Event held in conjunction with DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship, Nanticoke Watershed Alliance promotes improving river's water quality



The Nanticoke from a kayak's-eye view

LAUREL – The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance (NWA) in partnership with DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship invites the public to join in celebration of the Nanticoke River and learn more about its current health and water quality issues at the annual Nanticoke Wade-In. This year's event to be held Thursday, July 28 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Trap Pond State Park near Laurel, also features the NWA releasing the 2015 Nanticoke River Report Card and announcing a new multi-year partnership with the Perdue Foundation that will benefit the river's future.

Wade-In attendees are encouraged to get their feet wet to help evaluate the river's water quality condition by using the "sneaker index" – determining what water depth a wader can reach while still seeing her or his feet on the river bottom – originated by Maryland State Senator C. Bernard "Bernie" Fowler. The sneaker index is a casual indicator of water clarity – the ability of sunlight to reach the bottom, which is crucial for supporting high dissolved oxygen levels, bottom-dwelling species, and submerged aquatic vegetation.

At the Wade-In, the work of the NWA and Nanticoke Creekwatchers Citizen Water Monitoring Program will be discussed, with lunch provided to attendees along with optional kayaking opportunities. Part of the discussion will center on the partnership with the Perdue Foundation, which will support the Nanticoke Creekwatchers program and water quality data distribution, while also providing Perdue "Green Team" associates with educational workshops and volunteer opportunities. Specific outcomes will include Perdue associate workshops focused on water quality and conservation practices, site cleanups and tree-planting opportunities, water quality monitoring program assistance and upgrades, annual report card printing, and a significant expansion of the annual Wade-In event to reach more of the Nanticoke Watershed community.

"We at Perdue want to do our part to assure the health and cleanliness of our environment," said Kim Nechay, executive director of the Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation. "Our support of the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance will aid in monitoring and protecting the Nanticoke River, raising awareness of its needs, and educating our neighbors on how they can do their part to keep it beautiful. It is an honor to be a part of these important efforts."

The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance would like to thank DNREC and Trap Pond State Park for their support in making this event possible. Participants will enjoy a free lunch beginning at noon, followed by the 2015 Nanticoke River Report Card results, and the Wade-In which will begin at 1:40 p.m. In addition, the NWA and Delaware State Parks will provide complementary paddling opportunities at Trap Pond for attendees of all ages to enjoy the pond and the bald cypress swamp.

Participants must register for the event at <http://2016nanticokewadein.eventbrite.com/>. For more information about the Wade-In or the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, please contact Beth Wasden, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, at bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org or by calling 443-944-1175.

About the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance

The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance is dedicated to conserving the

natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Nanticoke River watershed through collaborative outreach, education, and dialogue.

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